GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:587
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
EXPORT OF SPICES
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of spices has shown a decline of 13 percent in quantity and 32 percent in terms of rupee value in 2000-2001 till date in comparison to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to increase the export of spices?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) : According to the latest data available on export of spices for the period April 2000-January, 2001, the export of spices has shown a decline of 11% in quantity and 29% in terms of rupee value, as compared to the exports during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) : The major decline in export of spices is due to decline in export of pepper which accounts for major share of the total export earnings from spices. Fall in export of pepper is on account of cheaper prices offered by the competing countries and increasing supply position. Other reasons for decline in export of spices are non-availability of adequate exportable surplus in case of cumin, fenugreek, ginger and other seed spices; poor international demand in the case of celery and fennel and cheaper prices offered by the competing countries in case of ginger, coriander, chillies and fenugreek.

(c) : Some of the steps taken by the Govt to boost export of spices include:

i) Rationalisation of cess on export of spices at a uniform rate of 0.5%.
ii) Implementation of Brand Promotion Schemes like award of `Indian Spices Logo`to exporter of value added spices and the grant of `Spice House Certificate` to exporters of spices in bulk who adhere to quality standards.
iii) Striving to improve quality of Indian spices and spices products besides making products cost competitive through introduction of improved technology.
iv) Technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.
v) Product diversification by developing new markets, new applications and new brands.
vi) Developing organic spices and spice products for catering to the niche markets for organic spice products.
vii) Sending business delegations to develop market for Indian spices.